

Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, February 12, 1843, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, February 12, 1843.

My Dear General, I would not have troubled with another letter on this subject now, had I not been obliged to trouble you on a new subject and to ask you to do me a favor which I am not sure will be agreeable to you. George Crittenden, the son of my quondam friend J. J. Crittenden of the Senate of the United States, 1 —(a boy raised next door to me in Frankfort and of whom I was very fond) was recently taken as part of the Texan Army under Fisher, I think—at Mair , 2 I think, the place was called when the battle was fought, and is now in Santa Anna's power. I feel great apprehension that he may be sacrificed by the Mexican chief with a view to deter the young men of our country who emigrate to Texas from taking up arms against Mexico. Young Crittenden has been for several years a Texan and yet I fear he may be made a victim to the policy which may now dictate harsh measures towards any emigrant who takes part in the contest of Texas against Mexico. Yet I am sure if you were to ask his life and liberty of Santa Anna, who probably owes his own to you, that he would grant it. He cannot be forgetful of your kindness to him when a prisoner—the courtesy and public honors you done him and I have no doubt would feel proud of an occasion to show you as a private man a higher mark of respect than he would probably be willing to give to those now in authority here. May I beg you then to drop him a note asking the discharge of young Crittenden? I am aware that the father (Mr. Clay's Senator and friend) indulged a feeling toward you when president that did not become your earlier relations. He had the weakness to go in for Clay and Adams against his better feelings and Judgment. But he was always

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under the sinister influence that then beset him in his own family. But he was pretty well punished by his dismissal from the District Attorneyship and afterwards from the Bench of the Supreme Court. 3 A kindness from you now and under his present distress would melt his heart. But I do not ask your intercession for the fathers sake, but for Annie and the poor lad who was Montgomery's playmate and school fellow, and who is indeed, deserving your favor for his chivalric character and talents. If you do me the kindness to write, I think it would be well to direct your letter to some friend in New Orleans to forward to the Mexican capital, and to send a duplicate by the next mail to go by another channel for fear of miscarriage.

1 Senator from Kentucky 1817–1819, 1835–1841, 1842–1848, 1855–1861.

2 Mier.

3 Crittenden was U. S. district attorney in Kentucky from 1827 to 1829, when he was removed by Jackson, whose friends had also prevented his appointment to the Supreme Court, intended by Adams. George Crittenden was afterward a Confederate brigadier-general.

We are all well and send love to you and your Household

Affectionately yr. friend

P.S. Mr. Ingersoll has just stepped in and he says that after the speeches are all made he will devote himself in writing a circular which shall 0230 206 embody the substance of the whole in your case and he will lay himself out to make it the most finished appeal yet made to the country on the subject. I will publish it and send to you some 100 pamphlet copies.